

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MINUTES
June 23, 2010

Present: Commissioners: Susan Ashelford, John DePalma,
Robert Kapusta, and Susan Patrick

Advisors: Robert Gregory
Kathy Alagno
Press: Brian McCready, NH Register

Absent: Commissioners: Cyrus Settineri, Robert Stanton and
Genevieve Salvatore

- I. Vice Chair Patrick called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.
- II. Public Comments – None
- III. The minutes of the meeting of May 26, 2010 were approved as amended.
- IV. Guest: Carl Russell, G. J. Smith & Sons

Mr. Russell was invited to assist the commission in taking steps that would further advance economic development in the City of Milford. He said that the general assessment is that the economy bottomed out in September of last year and was steadily improving but still slow.

The idea of a brokers showcase was discussed. The idea would be to invite commercial brokers to a meeting with a welcome from the Mayor where a number of available properties would be showcased. Tentative target date was set for someday in the first two weeks in October. Mr. Russell said he would work with the committee on the project.

He thought developing a list of available commercial properties would also be a good idea. The Commission discussed the possibility of using interns for the project. Ms. Alagno will check with the University of New Haven to explore that possibility.

Another idea discussed was the creation of an electronic newsletter to be sent to brokers and other interested parties.

V. Economic Development Report

Mr. Gregory reported that Commerce Park had been sold for \$13 million to Celestial Capital Group. RoadWerx, Inc. a national event marketing and management company has leased 12,000sf at 60 Research Drive, Salute is now Presto Casual Dining and the Comfort Inn will become a Holiday Inn Express.

VI. Correspondence – None

VII. Committee Reports

A. Neighborhood Preservation

Ms. Patrick said she would contact the Health Dept. for an update on the Blight Ordinance.

B. Business Visitation Project

Mr. Gregory said that we are working with UI, a letter will go out to businesses signed by the Mayor and the EDC Chair and visits will take place in the fall.

C. Shop Local Campaign

Ms. Ashelford reported that a kit is being put together to attract more businesses and banners are ready to be hung.

D. Land Use and Permitting Process

Mr. Gregory said that interviews are ongoing for the permanent position of director of the new department.

E. Business Survey – No Report

VIII. Old Business - None

IX. New Business

Discussion was held about taking July and August off. The commission felt that they should continue to meet.

Mr. DePalma brought up the idea being used Cambridge MA that the town was contacting non-profits for donations for city services.

Mr. DePalma brought up an article that called for more Greek restaurateurs.

Ms. Patrick said that the Plan of Conservation and Development is coming up for an update. She thought that the EDC should be involved in the process. Ms. Patrick also said a survey in the paper would be a good indicator of public opinion. Ms. Alagno said that last time the Chamber and MPI brought in the Yale School of Urban Design and provided a plan for downtown. She will check with Alan Platus to see if he is interested in participating. She said Milford Progress is working on parts of the plan.

Ms. Alagno noted that Milford Rotary honored Commissioner Kapusta for his service to the City.

Ms. Alagno invited the commissioners to the noontime meeting of the Board of Directors of the Chamber to hear Lt. Gov. Michael Fedele.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert B. Gregory